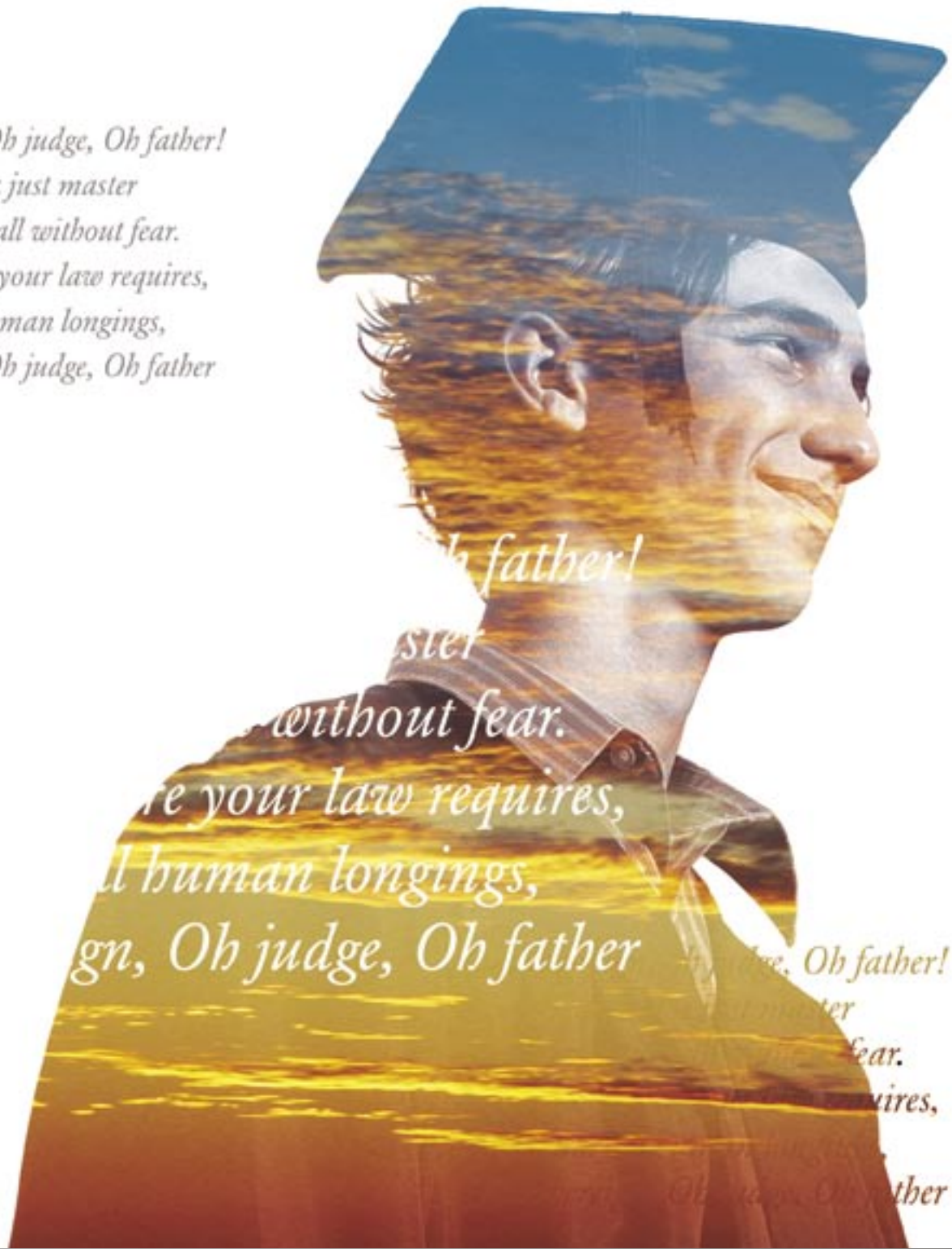


*Oh sovereign, Oh judge, Oh father!  
The servant of a just master  
Answers your call without fear.  
I go now where your law requires,  
Free from all human longings,  
Oh sovereign, Oh judge, Oh father*



## MISSION STATEMENT

Developing effective evangelical Christian leaders for the 21st century through university-level education, professional training and on-going support.

- acquiring excellence in academic studies
- achieving competence in leadership
- developing essential disciplines of worship and devotion
- growing towards spiritual maturity
- growing in authenticity and sensitivity in relationships with God and others
- developing a zeal for the presentation of the Gospel

# macdiv Graduation 2005

*Oh sovereign, Oh judge, Oh father!  
The servant of a just master  
Answers your call without fear.  
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Powerful words taken from Jules Massenet's opera, *Le Cid*, sung at the 49th Convocation of McMaster Divinity College on May 17th by one of our honorary doctoral recipients, Ben Heppner. As you read through the words of this aria, you are struck by how poignant they are not only for graduates of a seminary, but also for all Christians.

The story goes that the hero, Rodrigo, despairing of all else, submits himself to the will of God. Those who rely upon earthly things despair, but the Christian keeps his or her faith and answers the call of God on his or her life. The ideas that he or she contemplates in this prayer are simple, yet profound and so entirely appropriate to commemorate the occasion of our 2005 class of graduates.

The theme of 'answering God's call without fear' came through powerfully in our Service of Celebration in the afternoon. As we listened to three of our graduates speak about their years of preparation here at the College, we were reminded again of the important work in which we are engaged. Sherri, Leanne and Paul talked about the impact of their studies for the next stage of their Christian ministry with the BCOQ. Their stories are representative of similar stories of the men and women who make up our second largest graduating class in the history of the College. While our graduates come from very diverse backgrounds and experiences, the themes of their journey at MacDiv are remarkably similar:

- We have gained confidence as we have studied, learned and interacted in the classroom.
- We have grown in our ability to practice ministry through our Field Education experiences and our Ministry Reflection Seminars.
- We have been supported through our educational experiences, having had true Christian leadership and fellowship modeled for our future work in the Church.
- We have been taught to ask the 'why' questions, to think deeply about the Scriptures, about ministry and about our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our other honorary doctoral recipient, Dr. Haddon Robinson, renowned Baptist preacher and teacher, challenged all of us to keep faithful to the real ministry of God. We must not become sidetracked with gimmicks and activities that detract from the preaching of the Gospel. And this is why your support of theological education and ministry preparation at McMaster Divinity College is so important! By investing in this ministry, you help ensure that our graduates answer the call of God on their lives, with confidence and without fear. You also help ensure that they stay 'on track' by supporting the quality of education that is needed to make a difference.

As we close out the 2004/05 academic year, thank you for your generous and faithful support. We look forward to our continuing partnership in the future as we work together to prepare the next generation of Christian leaders.

Stanley E. Porter, Ph.D., President and Dean



JUNE 2005